

DUXBURY HISTORY FILE
REFERENCE**A PASSION PRESERVED****Memorial at high school honors**

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U.S. history teacher

By Kendra Johnson
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DUXBURY — The passion of amateur archaeologist and substitute teacher Terence Byrne, who died last year, will live on at Duxbury High School in the form of a memorial book collection and exhibit recently set up there.

Byrne dedicated much of his life to the study of American Indian culture and history, which he loved to share with others, friends and family said.

"He was really just one of the humblest people I've met, really reverent and passionate when it came to Native American history," said John Fernandes, who teaches U.S. history at the school.

Teachers donated more than \$700 toward the exhibit, which is housed in the school library and includes nearly 40 books about American Indi-

Duxbury

ans, a journal article Byrne co-wrote and other information about American Indians. The exhibit also includes a video of Byrne giving a presentation about Indian artifacts.

Byrne graduated from Duxbury High School in 1970. Pictures of him from his graduation yearbook also are on display.

He died in March 1997 of hemophilia. He had been a substitute teacher at the high school and the middle school and worked on the construction team at the Robbins Museum of Archaeology in Middleboro, which is run by the Massachusetts Archaeological Society.

"If he didn't have (a school) assignment on a Wednesday, he was there faithfully," said Kathryn Fairbanks, who worked with Byrne at

devotee of Indian culture

the museum.

High school librarian Charles Vautrain and his assistant, Mary Ann Offer, helped create the exhibit. Fairbanks suggested books to be included in the collection.

Offer said a collection of books about Native Americans was the most appropriate way to spend the money donated in Byrne's memory.

"With somebody like this, it was obvious we had to go in this direction," Offer said. "People loved this guy. He was very selfless."

Friends and family said Byrne loved to share his research with others. Although he had no formal training in archaeology, friends and co-workers said, he was an invaluable resource regarding American Indians.

Byrne's sister, Joyce Mattern of Marshfield, said her brother was an avid reader and also had Indian friends who taught him a lot about their culture.

In 1994, Byrne was the consultant on an archaeological dig performed by several Duxbury High School classes near the John Alden House. Pictures and an exhibit of the artifacts that were found are on display in the halls at the high school.

Mattern said her brother's passion for Indian culture began when he was very young, when he began collecting arrowheads.

She said his home was reminiscent of the inside of a tepee, adorned with bows, hand-made arrows and other artifacts and replicas.

Mattern said Byrne was writing a book about King Philip's War, a 17th-century New England colonial war, and learning the Wampanoag language when he died.

Mattern, who has visited the school exhibit, said she enjoyed the display.

"It's nice to see that they appreciate what he had to offer," she said.